AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : Under the Growth Centre Scheme four Growth Centres at Chhatrapur (Ganjam), Kalinganar-Dubri (Cuttatck), Jharsuguda (Jharsuguda) and Kesinga (Kesinga) have been sactioned in the State of Orissa and Central Assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs, 600 lakhs, 2000 lakhs and 125 lakhs respectively has been released to these Growth Centres. One Growth Centre *i.e.* Kesinga has become functional as allotment of industrial plots has commenced there.

Development of townships in NER

1381. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four townships in the North-Eastern Region are proposed for creating congenial atmosphere to attract foreign investment;

(b) if so, the names of townships along with their States; and

(c) the details of amount sanctioned and released by the Central Government for the Development of these townships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. A new Industrial Policy and other concessions has been notified on 24th December, 1997 for development of industry in the NE Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Programme for welfare of salt workers

1382. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme for the welfare of salt workers in the country, specially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being initiated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The implementation